

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 ARA-10 /111 W
-----114487 180659Z /16

R 161537Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6522
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, DA
SUBJ: FRENCH IRRITATED AT FONMIN ANDERSEN'S VIEWS ON INTERVENTION
IN AFRICA

1. ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN THE DANISH PRESS, FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDERSEN EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPROVAL OF
MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA DURING A DEBATE IN THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MAY 10. ASKED ON THE FLOOR WHETHER
HIS VIEW APPLIED TO ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION, ANDERSEN
REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT IT APPLIED TO ALL TROOPS
WHETHER INVITED BY GOVERNMENTS OR NOT AND ESPECIALLY
TO THE CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA. TO ANOTHER QUERY
REGARDING FRENCH FORCES IN MAURITANIA AND CHAD, ANDERSEN
SAID HIS STATEMENT APPLIED TO THAT EXAMPLE ALSO.

2. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT ANDERSEN'S RESPONSES
CAUSED A STIR IN STRASBOURG BECAUSE HE WAS ACTING IN
HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND
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THIS REMARKS, CONSEQUENTLY, COULD BE IRRITATING TO
THE FRENCH. ON MAY 12 THE DANISH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS
WAS CALLED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO EXPLAIN ANDERSEN'S
REMARKS.

3. ANDERSEN HIMSELF, AFTER HIS RETURN TO DENMARK
EXPLAINED HIS POSITION BY SAYING THAT IN THE EUROPEAN

PARLIAMENT THE FIRST QUESTION ON A SUBJECT IS ANSWERED BY THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIS ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS THEREAFTER ARE ANSWERED FROM A NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW. THIS, THE PRESS STATES, IS WHAT ANDESEN SAID HE DID.

4. COMMENT: FOLLOWING ON ANKER JORGENSEN'S INDISCREET COMMENT ON THE FRENCH ELECTION DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S LATEST REMARK APPEARS TO HAVE UPSET THE FRENCH AGAIN. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SENGHOR, AT THE OPENING OF A MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN DAKAR MAY 12, CONDEMNED FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA. SO ANDERSEN'S VIEWS, WHILE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR THE FRENCH, APPARENTLY DON'T HURT DENMARK IN AFRICA. END COMMENT.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COPENH03217
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780209-0082
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780556/aaaabuvr.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a855c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2682136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH IRRITATED AT FONMIN ANDERSEN'S VIEWS ON INTERVENTION IN AFRICA
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, SOPN, DA, AO, FR, (ANDERSEN, KNUD BORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a855c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014